

with a gun, charge of the Canal bridge and town approaches, specially.

Seven prisoners, Arabi's soldiers, were taken near Lock Bridge and Arab town, sent on board "Orion" for two days, and, being disarmed, were allowed to proceed on shore.

I had every reason, on the evening of the 20th August, 1882, to expect a night attack in force, so I placed the "Ready" and the "Dee," that had arrived with the Marines, close in shore in positions that would cover a retreat on our part through the town.

Captain Stephenson brings to my notice the services of Lieutenant Langley, the Senior Lieutenant of the "Carysfort" with the landing party. I have great pleasure in also specially mentioning this officer to you. Captain Stephenson forwards a letter from Major Fraser, R.E.

I have the honour to enclose herewith a report from Captain Stephenson.

Major Fraser's report will follow.

I have, &c.,

ROBT. O'B. FITZ ROY, Captain.

Rear-Admiral Anthony H. Hoskins, C.B.,  
Senior Officer.

"Carysfort," at Ismailia,

August 22, 1882.

SIR,

IN accordance with your confidential memorandum, I landed with the force as per margin\* at 3.30 A.M. of the 20th, leaving Lieutenant Thomas, H.M.S. "Northumberland," with 13 small arm men in charge of the telegraph station on the pier, I advanced with a strong advanced guard in skirmishing order under Captain Gore, R.M.L.I., over the canal bridge, through European, native, and Arab towns, meeting with no opposition.

2. Having taken possession of Arab town, I immediately loopholed it and threw up entrenchments under the guidance of Major Fraser, R.E.

The Egyptian picquet retreating was fired upon by the Gatling and 9-pr. guns, two of the picquet were killed, one carrying a Remington rifle, but no ammunition.

3. About eight A.M. three Egyptian mounted officers galloped towards our entrenchments from Nefiche, waving a flag of truce. They stated they came to place themselves under my protection, and, receiving their swords and horses, I sent them under escort to you, and now forward their swords.

4. About ten P.M. General Graham, C.B., V.C., arrived with 300 of the 50th Regiment, under Colonel Tyler, whom he placed under my command for the defence of this outpost.

5. About eight A.M. of the 21st I advanced with the force under Major-General Graham, with two Gatling guns, on Nefiche, which was occupied without opposition, leaving the Gatlings for the defence of the railway bridge. I then returned to Ismailia, and embarked two small arm companies and the 9-pr. field gun, in accordance with your orders.

6. In referring to this service it is my pleasing duty to report the satisfactory behaviour of all under my command. Entrenching the outpost under a burning sun was most trying; and I regret the death of A. Wager, ordinary seaman, from sunstroke.

I would especially like to mention the name of Major Fraser, R.E., who was of great assistance in fortifying the Arab town.

\* 74 Small arm men (companies); 12 Field gun crews; 15 Gatling gun crews; 24 Pioneers, &c.; 74 Marines; 2 Captains and A.D.C. Total 201.

Captain Gore, R.M.L.I., belonging to H.M.S. "Northumberland," and Lieutenant Langley, Senior and Gunnery Lieutenant of this ship, whose untiring zeal and energy deserve my best thanks.

I enclose a report and sketch of the position from Major Fraser, R.E.

I have, &c.,

H. F. STEPHENSON, Captain.

Captain R. O'B. FITZ ROY,  
Senior Officer, Ismailia.

Ismailia,

August 26, 1882.

SIR,

HAVING been detailed to accompany your force in taking Ismailia, I submit the following, as to the part I took under your orders:—

The enemy being at Nefiche, with a force of all arms, it was to be expected that in the first instance he would resist us at the Arab village, west of Ismailia.

Your force of 200 men, viz., 150 small arm men, 1 9-pr., and 1 Gatling, having reached the bridge at the waterworks about 4 A.M., I took some skirmishers forward so as to gain and secure the front for the main body, which came up by the canal.

On moving into the open a number of people appeared on our right front, and as a security, I took by your orders a party of small arm men and posted them on the bank in front of the bridge.

After a little firing we found we were not attacked, and then organized the defence of the village.

The village consists of low houses of sun-dried bricks, generally only one story high, with flat roofs and garden walls. There is a good east foreground towards Nefiche, but to the north and west it is more undulating.

The garden walls were cut down, houses loopholed, lateral gaps and gaps to the rear formed where required.

The upper rooms of the few two storied houses were loopholed so as to give a double tier of fire and the ends of streets were closed by shelter trenches.

The gun and Gatling were entrenched with sand or sun-dried brick parapets, and platforms were made of doors.

The spirit bottles were smashed in the grog shops and the windows made defensible by filing up with boxes of wood containing sand.

The sailors' cutlasses proved most useful for loopholing walls, and the shovels we took out enabled us in an hour or two to be in a state to resist a serious attack. After some hours' labour we could let the men rest and feed.

Before sunrise Arabi Pasha must have learned of our landing by telegraph from Nefiche.

Our information from all sources made it appear probable that an attack in force would be made before we could be reinforced, it was therefore desirable to induce the Arabs to postpone the attack.

Finding telegrams arriving from Cairo to the Traffic Manager, Ismailia, in ignorance of our arrival, I telegraphed in his name to the War Minister at Cairo to say 5,000 English were already on shore, and asked him to inform the authorities. He acknowledged receipt and said he had done so.

An officer, stating himself to be the Chief of the Staff of Arabi's forces in the district, having come in to surrender, strongly advised the bombardment of Nefiche by the ships, to prevent attack.

This was done, and the effect was to cause the